

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 22-25 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, amend Claims 1, 20, 21, and 26, and add Claims 29-31 as follows. All claims currently pending in this application, including those not currently being amended, have been reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
input means for inputting image data representing an original image;  
coding means for compression-encoding the input image data representing the original image;

recording means for recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium;

decoding means for decoding the compression-encoded image data before said recording means records the compression-encoded image data on the external recording medium; and

display means for selectively ~~displaying the input image data and the~~ displaying, prior to said recording means recording the compression-encoded/decoded image data ~~decoded by said decoding means, before said recording means records the~~ compression-encoded image data on the external recording medium, the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said decoding means,

wherein the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data both represent the same original image.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said display means displays the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data at the same time.

4. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said decoding means further decodes compression-encoded image data previously recorded on the external recording medium.

5. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said coding means compression-encodes the input image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compression-encoding methods.

6. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of types of compression-encoding methods include at least a JPEG method.

7. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said plurality of types of compression-encoding methods include at least an MPEG method.

8. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said coding means has a plurality of image-quality modes having differing rates of codes supplied for one screen.

9. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input means comprises image pickup means for generating the input image data from a captured image.

10. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the input image data is still image data.

11. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising instruction means for dictating a photographing timing of said image pickup means, wherein said display means displays the compression-encoded/decoded image data in response to an output of said instruction means.

Claims 12- 19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps, comprising:

an input step of inputting image data representing an original image;

a coding step of compression-encoding the input image data ~~input in the inputting step~~ representing the original image;

a recording step of recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium;

a decoding step of decoding the compression-encoded image data before the recording means records the compression-encoded image data ~~is recorded in the recording step~~ on the external recording medium; and

a display step of selectively ~~displaying the input image data input in the inputting step and displaying, prior to the recording means recording the compression-encoded/decoded image data on the external recording medium, the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the said decoding step, before the compression-encoded image data is recorded in the recording step wherein the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data both represent the same original image.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium embodying processor-executable instructions for image processing steps, comprising:

- an input step of inputting image data representing an original image;
- a coding step of compression-encoding the input image data representing the original image input in the ~~inputting~~ input step;
- a decoding step of decoding the compression-encoded image data; and
- a display step of displaying on display means difference image data between the input image data input in the ~~inputting~~ input step and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the decoding step,

wherein the original image of the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image is common.

Claims 22-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

- an image pickup ~~mechanism~~ unit for generating input image data representing an original image from a captured image;

a compression/decompression circuit for compression-encoding the input image data of the original image and for decoding the compression-encoded image data of the original image; and

a display for displaying on display means difference image data between the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said compression/decompression circuit,

wherein the original image of the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data is common.

27. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising a recording interface for recording on a recording medium the compression-encoded image data.

28. (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said compression/decompression circuit compression-encodes the input image data by selectively using one of a plurality of types of compression-encoding methods.

29. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:  
an input unit, arranged to input image data representing an original image;  
a coding unit, arranged to compression-encode the input image data representing the original image;  
a recording unit, arranged to record the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium;

a decoding unit, arranged to decode the compression-encoded image data before said recording unit records the compression-encoded image data on the external recording medium; and

a display unit, arranged to display selectively, prior to said recording unit recording the compression-encoded/decoded image data on the external recording medium, the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded by said decoding unit, wherein the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data both represent the same original image.

30. (New) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

an input step of inputting image data representing an original image;

a coding step of compression-encoding the input image data representing the original image;

a recording step of recording the compression-encoded image data on an external recording medium;

a decoding step of decoding the compression-encoded image data before said recording means records the compression-encoded image data on the external recording medium; and

a display step of selectively displaying, prior to said recording means recording the compression-encoded/decoded image data on the external recording medium, the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in said decoding step, the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data both represent the same original image.

31. (New) An image processing method comprising the steps of:  
an input step of inputting image data of the original image;  
a coding step of compression-encoding the input image data of the original image in the input step;  
a decoding step of decoding the compression-encoded image data; and  
a display step of displaying on display means difference image data between the input image data input in the input step and the compression-encoded/decoded image data decoded in the decoding step, the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image data are both representatives of the same original image,  
wherein the original image of the input image data and the compression-encoded/decoded image is common.